

# The Hemel Hempstead School

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**Headteacher: Neil Hassell BEng (Hons) NPQH FRSA**

**Letter 83**

14<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Somme Battlefields visit- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

In the Spring Term, Year 9 students study Britain and the First World War, with a particular focus on life in the trenches. To reinforce students' understanding of trench warfare, we are proposing to run a one-day visit to the Somme – the site of one of the fiercest battles of the war in 1916 on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

En route to the Somme, we will visit the Vimy Ridge Battlefield, while in the Somme area itself we will visit the Theipval Memorial and Visitors Centre, the trenches at Beaumont Hamel, the Newfoundland Memorial Park, the La Boisselle Crater and the Fricourt Cemetery.

The provisional itinerary would be as follows:

4.15am	Depart school by coach (please note the early start)
6.45am	Check in for Le Shuttle
7.35am	Arrive Calais
12 noon	Arrive Somme area via Vimy Ridge (note 1 hour time difference on the continent)
12 noon -6pm	In and around the battlefield sites
6.15pm	Depart the Somme
7pm approx	Check in for Le Shuttle
10pm approx	Arrive back at school

This will be a long and quite strenuous day but one we feel would be of considerable interest to students. The cost of the trip, including coach travel, insurance and entrance fees, is £55 per student. Students would need to bring sufficient food for the day. If the timings of the day allow, there may be an opportunity to purchase food at the services as Calais, but this is not guaranteed. Please be aware that under the provision of the school's Trips policy, the History Department reserves the right to refuse participation on the trip to students whose conduct has previously given reason for concern.

Please be aware that we have 120 places available for this trip, and students are allocated a place on a first-come, first-served basis. I wish to make it clear that no student will be at a disadvantage by not attending the trip, and the trip serves to enhance student's understanding rather than form the basis of it. As a result of the limited number of places, please ensure a photocopy of your child's passport is returned to school and payment is made using the online payment system by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019. Please advise me of any child who holds a non-British passport so that we can facilitate any extra passport formalities that may be required. Students will also need to be in possession of a European Health Insurance Card which can be obtained online.

If a student will miss a Music lesson due to a school trip/event it is vital that they inform their instrumental Music teacher at least two weeks before in order to avoid the lesson being forfeited.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or require further information.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs L Williams**  
Head of History